

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph at page 25, lines 18-29 with the following amended paragraph.

In other examples, a distortion or deformation can be formed in the reflective layer 9A adjacent the data layer along the path of a track and below the protective outer surface. According to RedBook recommended practice, any deformation or distortion in the reflective layer should be less than 300  $\mu\text{m}$  in width. Many types of deformations can produce common optical effects known as birefringence. These effects can operate in conjunction with other physical features, resulting in a total effect that is a combination of the physical effect and the birefringence. For example each deformation can be 300 $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter with no surrounding area of increased birefringence, or alternatively, each can be 200 $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter with a surrounding area of increased birefringence. This birefringence phenomenon can be applied in conjunction with for any of the various types of modifications or distortions disclosed for these purposes. In this example, each deformation is at the minimum specification interval of 20mm apart from adjacent deformations.